



METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, January 5, 2014
Epiphany Sunday

*In boldness &
confidence*

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

**The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in
Christ, changing lives and transforming the world**

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

NOTES FROM THE MCCLV

office

**MCCLV Welcomes new Administrative Assistant!
Paula Merkel (starting TOMORROW January 6)**



MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

To view and subscribe to our channel go to
www.youtube.com and search **MCC LV**.

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is
Wednesday at noon – email to office@mcclv.org

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form** in order to get put on the calendar. Write to office@mcclv.org for more information.

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

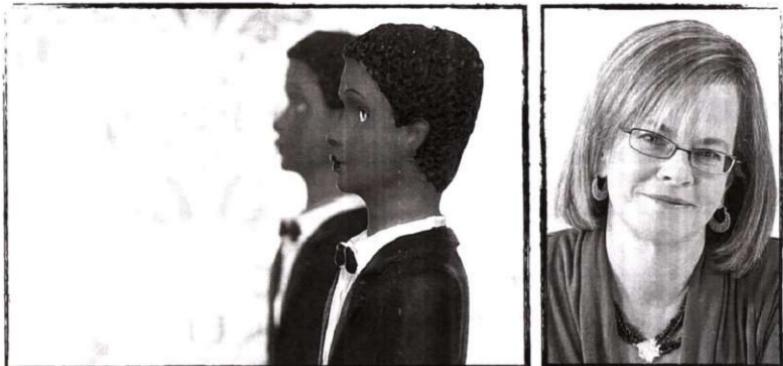


MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!

Search **MCC Lehigh Valley**. All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office.
Thank you for your cooperation!

Interfaith Freedom to Marry Worship Service

Featuring keynote speaker:
The Rev. Debra W. Haffner
President and CEO, Religious Institute



**February 8, 2014 at 7:00pm
reception to follow**

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
940 N. 4th St, Allentown, PA 18102

Sponsored by:
**Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
Pennsylvania Diversity Network
Equality Pennsylvania**



HELP ASHLEY OUT!

Ashley Richard is the coordinator of MCCLV's 2014 Freedom to Marry Interfaith Worship Service Reception. Let Ashley know you are able to help by talking with him after the worship service or e-mail him at limexperience@gmail.com. He is looking for all sorts of food donations and assistance on **Saturday, February 8**.

**2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
Come Together as the Church & Worship the
Undivided Christ**

January 19, 2014 at 4:00PM
Calvary Baptist Church
4601 Tilghman Street
Allentown, PA 18104

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches and Calvary Baptist Church cordially invites you to share 60 years of ministry in the Lehigh Valley. This year's "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" service will bring together multimedia presentations, small and large group dialogue and song to celebrate Creation.

A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

A sacrament is when something holy happens — when you are apt to catch a glimpse of the almost unbearable preciousness and mystery of life. Needless to say, church isn't the only place where the holy happens. Sacramental moments can occur at any moment, at any place, and to anybody.

(Frederick Buechner)

CHILI COOK-OFF

There will be a Chili Cook-Off competition immediately following the worship service Sunday, **January 26**. Bring family members and friends — and bring a bag of food for MCCLV's Food Pantry. Prize ribbons will be awarded as a token of appreciation. If interested in becoming a contestant, contact Outreach and Justice Leader Cynthia Rodriguez at cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org





Soloist Auditions for Worship Services will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2014 from 1:00-2:30PM. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome. See Brian Jones or e-mail him at brian.jones@mcclv.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY

- - - MAKE WEDNESDAY YOUR WORD DAY! - - -

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study gathers for an hour at MCCLV. In this once-a-week Bible Study, participants read through a portion of the Bible each week. There is no homework or additional reading. The classes are facilitated by Rev. Goudy - beginning, intermediate and advanced Bible students are all welcome. The schedule is below:

January 8: Now What? (Acts 10 & 11)

January 15: NO CLASS

January 22: Now What? (Acts 12-14)

January 29: Now What? (Acts 15 & 16)

February 5: Now What? (Acts 17-19)

February 12: Now What? (Acts 20-22)

February 19: Now What? (Acts 23-25)

February 26: Now What? (Acts 26-28)

March 5: MCCLV's Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season will be a dinner and video series. The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will return in May with a study on Romans titled: "*Why Do Evangelicals*

Spiritual Valentine's Day Cards at MCCLV

The MCCLV Sunday School children and Messengers Art Group are working together to make spiritual Valentine's Day cards to sell to the congregation and public for \$2 each. Consider giving your loved ones spiritual Valentine's Day cards in 2014. The cards will be made on Sunday, January 19th at 12:30-3:00PM. If interested in participating, contact Cynthia Rodriguez at cynthia.rodriguez@mclv.org



The Convergence Project

**Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!**

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

January 12 Who Decides? Authority and Scripture

January 19 Gender Panic! Gender and Biblical Texts Part I

January 26 Gender Panic! Gender and Biblical Texts Part II

February 2 A Man's World? Patriarchy and Biblical Texts Part I

February 9 A Man's World? Patriarchy and Biblical Texts Part II

February 16 How Not To Be A Control Freak: Honor & Shame in the Biblical Texts

February 23 Banned from Sunday School: Sexualities in Scripture

March 2 Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part I

March 9 Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part II

March 16 Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I

March 23 Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II

March 30 Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus

April 6 Reading Scripture from the Margins

April 13 Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture

FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS “PEOPLE OF FAITH” VIDEOS

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners!** The series surveys the history of Christianity in the United States & the weekly 30-minute video brings up interesting questions for reflection and discussion.

March 12th, 7:00 PM “From Monarchs to the Marketplace”

- Ministry Coordinators providing meal

March 19th, 7:00 PM “Many Mansions”

- Board of Directors providing meal

March 26th, 7:00 PM “Rebels with a Cause”

- Retirees providing meal

April 2nd, 7:00 PM “Challenges and Change”

- Choir providing meal

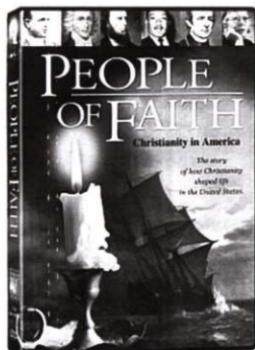
April 9th, 7:00 PM “Home Grown Saints”

- 20s30s providing meal

April 16th, 7:00 PM “The Future of Christianity”

- Worship Team providing meal

RSVP to office@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DONNI STANCAZAK!

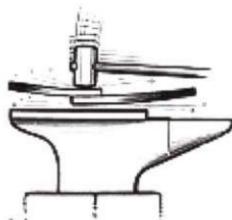
Church Member Donni Stanczak announces the birth of grandson Jayden, who was born December 2 at 7:39PM, 8lbs 7.5oz. A blessing from the Lord! You can send a note of congratulations to Donni at jillian222@live.com



MCCLV WELCOMES FIVE NEW MEMBERS

On All Saints Sunday Bernice Baez, Milagros Rivera-Baez, Jeffrey Hayes, Carolyn Gaffney and Sadi Delaney made a membership commitment to MCCLV. Be sure to say congratulations and welcome to the church's new members! Interested in taking the next step on your spiritual journey? The next new members classes (called the WELD process) will be offered **March 4, 11, 18, and 25 of 2014**.

FORGE



a stronger relationship with Christ and one another - Join a FORGE group! Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies, and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it's not the one nearest you.

Contact group leaders to learn more!

FORGE Group East - Meeting in Perkasie.

Leaders: Loreli Bauer lorelibauer@aol.com
Elaine Ely pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



FORGE Group East - Meeting in Bethlehem

Leaders: Hope Hilby hopehilby@gmail.com
Barb Baus babaus@hotmail.com



FORGE Group West - Meeting in Allentown

Leaders: Scott George smgmcclv@gmail.com
Ron Smith ron.smith@mcclv.org





UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

1st Epiphany: January 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

Scripture Readings: Leviticus 19:35-37 & Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "Clean in the Little Things"

2nd Epiphany: January 19, 2014 at 10:30 AM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Scripture Reading: Amos 5:18-27

Preaching: Robert Schotter

3rd Epiphany: January 26, 2014 @10:30 AM

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:1-16

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "Scandalous Stories: Cain & Abel"

4th Epiphany: February 2, 2014

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:1-21

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "Scandalous Stories: Delilah"



CHANGE OF DATE!

Rev. Delores Berry will be ministering with MCCLV on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014. Mark your calendars now!

Today's Scripture Readings:

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, the magi offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Ephesians 3:7-12

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of God's power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

MCCLV's Weekly 2013 Budgeted for Giving is \$3,580.85

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
12/08/13	107	\$2,213.14
12/15/13	44	\$1,255.09
12/22/13	95	\$1,819.04
12/24/13	98	\$950.02
12/29/13	99	\$2,565.40

MCCLV Year-to-Date Budget:\$186,204.50

MCCLV Year-to-Date Offering:\$154,477.32

Surplus or Deficit?-\$31,726.88 (Deficit)

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:

Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org

20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality,
Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:

If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy

Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming
and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:

Cynthia Rodriguez | cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank
and Messengers Art Ministry

Media & Marketing:

If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy

Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:

Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre,

Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith

MCCLV Board meets the second Sunday of every month.

**If you would like an item included on their agenda
see any Board Member**

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby,
Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel 01/06/13 | office@mcclv.org